

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/034,133

Examiner

Irakli Kiknadze

Applicant(s)

EDIC ET AL.

Art Unit

2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment dated 11/29/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 September 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to the Office action of August 24, 2004 the Amendment has been received on November 29, 2004.

Claims 1,7,13 and 16 have been amended.

Claims 1-18 are currently pending in this application

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see pages 6-11, filed November 29, 2004, with respect to claims 1-18 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-18 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-18 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-5 are allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a method for arranging detector sections for an image system that has a field view that is defined by a rotational axis and imaging geometry comprising arranging the detector sections in an asymmetric, spaced-apart arrangement about central axis of the field of view as claimed.

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Claim 6 is allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a method for arranging detector sections for an image system that has a field view that is defined by a rotational axis and imaging geometry comprising arranging the detector sections in an asymmetric arrangement about central axis of the field of view such that at least one of the detector sections is proximate to an edge of the field of view as claimed.

Claims 7-11 are allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a detection array for an imaging system that has a field of view that is defined by a rotational axis and imaging geometry comprising a plurality of detector sections arranged asymmetrically and spaced-apart about a central axis of the field of view as claimed.

Claim 12 is allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a detector array for an imaging system that has a field view that is defined by a rotational axis and imaging geometry comprising arranging the detector sections in an asymmetric arrangement about central axis of the field of view such that at least one of the detector sections is proximate to an edge of the field of view as claimed.

Claims 13-15 are allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a method for performing a computed tomography scan of an object utilizing an imaging system including a rotational axis and imaging geometry that defines a field of view comprising arranging the detector sections in an asymmetric, spaced-apart arrangement about a central axis of the field of view as claimed.

Claims 16 and 17 are allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a scanning apparatus comprising an array of detector sections arranged spaced-apart asymmetric about a center axis of a field of view as claimed.

Claim 18 is allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a scanning apparatus comprising: an array of detector sections arranged asymmetric about a central axis of a field of view, the detector sections separated by a length that is less than the length of each said individual detector sections as claimed as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Chang (US Patent 5,449,913), Kinsinger (US Patent 6,185,271 B1), Hsieh et al. (US Patents 6,366,637 B1 and 6,359,956 B1) and Sohval et al. (US Patent 4,637,040) teach CT apparatus comprising asymmetric X-ray detector arrays.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Irakli Kiknadze whose telephone number is 571-272-2493. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00- 5:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on 571-272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Irakli Kiknadze
January 6, 2005

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DAVID V. BRUCE
PRIMARY EXAMINER